

Remarks

The Office Action mailed December 21, 2010 has been received and reviewed. Claims 18, 30 and 37 have been amended, claims 27-28 and 31 have been canceled (without prejudice), and no new claims have been presented. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 3, 4, 7, 11, 12, 18, 20-21, 23-24, 26, 30, 32-35, and 37 will be pending in the present application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Allowability of Claims 3, 4, 7, 11 and 12

Applicants note that claims 3, 4, 7, 11 and 12 were indicated as allowable.

Objection to Claim 28

Claim 28 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The recitations of claim 28 and intervening claim 27 have been incorporated into claim 18 as amended. Entry and consideration of the proposed amendment are respectfully requested.

As a result, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 18 and its dependent claims 20-21, 23-24, 26, 30, 32-35 are allowable as presented. Notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Claims 18, 20, 23, 24, 26, 27, 30-32, 35, and 37 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lampadius (DE 2453840) in view of Starksen (U.S. Patent No. 5,571,161).

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lampadius (DE 2453840) and Starksen (U.S. Patent No. 5,571,161) in view of Munch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,463,335).

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Claim 34 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lampadius (DE 2453840) and Starksen (U.S. Patent No. 5,571,161) in view of Sigg et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,931,286).

Claim 33 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lampadius (DE 2453840) and Starksen (U.S. Patent No. 5,571,161) in view of Igo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,666,844).

Applicants respectfully submit that, with the exception of claim 37, these obviousness rejections have been rendered moot by the amendment to claim 18. Applicants do, however, reserve the right to traverse the assertions made in support of these rejections and to pursue the subject matter of these claims as presented before the amendments presented in this response.

In view of the amendments to claim 18, however, reconsideration and withdrawal of these obviousness rejections as applied to claims 18, 20-21, 23-24, 26, 30, 32-35 are respectfully requested.

Claim 37

Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the proposed amendment to claim 37. Applicants have proposed an amendment to claim 37 that is the same as the amendment presented for claim 18. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that, as amended, claim 37 recites all of the features recited in 18 as amended.

For at least that reason, Applicants respectfully submit that, like claim 18, amended claim 37 is allowable and that no further search or consideration would be required to acknowledge that allowability. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of claim 37 are, therefore, respectfully requested.

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Summary

It is respectfully submitted that, upon entry of the amendments proposed in this response, claims 3, 4, 7, 11, 12, 18, 20-21, 23-24, 26, 30, 32-35, and 37 are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives at the telephone number listed below if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8:

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper is being transmitted via the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office electronic filing system in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.6(a)(4) to the Patent and Trademark Office addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 18th day of April, 2011.

By: 

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